

SUMMARY REVIEWER COMMENTS

2013 RSVP Competition

Legal Applicant: Steuben County Office For Aging

Applicant ID: 13SR144101

Project Name: Steuben County RSVP

For the purpose of enhancing our programs by improving the quality and quantity of applications to the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS), we are providing specific feedback regarding the strengths and weaknesses of this application. These comments are not meant to represent a comprehensive assessment; rather the analysis represents those elements that had the greatest bearing on the rating of the application. Please note that this feedback consists of summary comments from only the external reviewer on the blended panel. Comments are not representative of all of the information used in the final funding decision.

External Reviewer's Summary Comments:

Strengths:

The applicant provides statistics from U.S. census data and state data that indicate the rapid growth of the senior population in the service area. The older population in Steuben County is larger than the state average. Statistics also reference the increase in food insecurity such as those needing food pantries; one out of eight residents is seeking assistance with food.

The applicant seeks feedback from the volunteers through a survey process to assess their satisfaction and suggestions for recognition. There is an annual event, recognition during National Volunteer Week, recognition articles in local papers, and sometimes gifts and flowers for the volunteers assigned to nursing homes.

The applicant has already made contact with 2-1-1's Give Help and Steuben County Office for Aging regarding referrals and absorption of volunteers that will be displaced because of graduating volunteer stations that no longer meet the unmet needs identified through the RSVP project.

The applicant's support is in place from the sponsor agency for space, equipment and supplies. Staff training and personnel management are in place. There is an Advisory Council in place that assists with program planning, evaluation methods, financial oversight and recognition of volunteers. The council also assisted with the conducting of a community needs assessment in preparation for the re-competition for FY 2013. The council reviews annual goals and objectives.

Weaknesses:

The applicant's proposal indicates that volunteers will provide support for older residents in their homes, stave off frailty, and receive emergency food as needed as an example of meeting needs. However, the proposal did not address how the National Performance Measures are related.

The applicant's proposal addresses the use of Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with volunteer stations to ensuring they understand the new National Performance Measures and data collection requirements. However, there is no discussion of how the data will be collected.

The applicant's two key positions, Project Director and Account Clerk/Typist that are currently vacant and no mention of how soon these positions will be filled.

The applicant's budget, \$99,486.00 is available in non-federal funds of which \$43,493.00 is non-grantee funds. However, the budget or budget narrative do not break-out the sources of all non-federal funds. It also does not demonstrate that the large amount of excess funds is used to meet the needs of the volunteers. It is top heavy with administrative costs such as contractual and consultant services.